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LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States, British and French aircraft continued over the period 16-31 May 1996 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation. The details are as follows:

1. In the northern region 100 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 738 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Jalibah, Artawi, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Maymunah, Shatrah, Hamzah, Qal'at Salih, Basra, Salman, Amarah, Shanafiyah and Lasaf.

3. On 21 occasions United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.

4. Hostile United States-Jordanian aerial activity inside Iraqi airspace on 22 and 31 May 1996 consisted of 21 sorties over Lasaf, Amghar (in Najaf Governorate) and Ma'aniyah.

5. At 1235 hours on 25 May 1996 a hostile two-aircraft formation dropped 10 heat flares 5 kilometres south of the Qush area, north of Mosul.

You are requested to intervene with the countries in question with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

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These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative